

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:GM

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APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

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EA/P-MR. ROSEN (SUBST)

----- 111128

R 030001Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CHUSDEL FPJMT SAIGON

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

JCRC NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 130032

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: FPJMT IMPASSE

REFS: A. CHUSDEL FPJMT 221025Z JUN

B. CHUSDEL FPJMT 251140Z JUN

C. CHUSDEL FPJMT 281045Z JUN

D. A-4318, MAY 17, 1973

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1. WE SHARE EMBASSY'S AND CHUSDEL FPJMT'S CONCERN OVER ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF PROGRESS ON MIA AND DIC ISSUES WITHIN FPJMT SINCE THAT TEAM WAS CONSTITUTED THREE MONTHS AGO. AND WE COMMEND YOUR INITIATIVES, HOWEVER FRUSTRATED TO DATE, TO MOVE THESE ISSUES OFF DEAD CENTER. WE RECOGNIZE, AS DO YOU, THAT WE HAVE BUT LIMITED LEVERAGE WITHIN THE FPJMT. US LEVERAGE THAT DOES EXIST IS ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS IN THE JEC CONTEXT, THROUGH THE DRV'S ALLIES, OR BY DIRECT CONTACT WITH HANOI.

2. ALL HERE CONCERNED WITH MIA/DIC MATTERS WILL BE REVIEWING THESE ISSUES TO SEE WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO EFFECT SOME REAL PROGRESS. IN THE MEANTIME WE WOULD OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON RECENT FPJMT DELIBERATIONS AS REPORTED REFTELS.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE AIM OF PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH PRG DEL WAS EFFORT TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER QUESTION OF JCRC ACCESS TO PRG-CONTROLLED AREAS, AND THAT TONE OF APPROACHES WAS DESIGNED TACTICALLY TO WIN PRG COOPERATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. NONETHELESS WE HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT THIS COURSE OF ACTION AND, FROM THIS DISTANCE, WE DOUBT SERIOUSLY THAT THIS TECHNIQUE WILL BE EFFECTIVE. FUNDAMENTALLY, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THE PRG IS ANYTHING BUT AN EXTENSION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LAO DONG (COMMUNIST) PARTY, AS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN REF D. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SEPARATE US EFFORTS WITH THE PRG MIGHT IN FACT GIVE THE COMMUNIST SIDE A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE AND ENHANCE THE PRG'S STATUS AT EXPENSE OF GVN. IT COULD ALSO INHIBIT NECESSARY GVN LIAISON WITH THE PRG WHICH MUST BE THE BASIS FOR ANY POSSIBLE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE PRG'S RAISING WITH US THE QUESTION OF THE RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES (REFTEL C) -- AN ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE TPJMC CONTEXT -- IS A CASE IN POINT.

4. RATHER THAN PURSUE ANY SPECIAL MEASURE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PRG DEL, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF ANY BILATERAL US EFFORT WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE FPJMT (OR IN ANY OTHER CONTEXT) CONTINUE TO BE WITH THE DRV. SUGGEST YOU RECONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON

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DRV; HOLDING THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR MIAS AND ASKING THEM AGAIN FOR THE INFORMATION WE HAVE REPEATEDLY REQUESTED. POINT COULD BE MADE THAT IF DRV/PRG REFUSE AT THIS TIME TO ALLOW JCRC ACCESS, THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE INFO KNOWN TO THEM ON US MISSING AND DEAD, AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 8(B) OF VIET-NAM AGREEMENT AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF PROTOCOLS AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON PROGRAM OF NEWS RELEASING DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS IT HAS FOR BREAKING CURRENT FPJMT IMPASSE.

6. APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED FULL REPORTING THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE FOR OUR REVIEW HERE. RUSH

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